

who is billy shears

Who is Billy Shears is a question that has intrigued music fans, conspiracy theorists, and Beatles enthusiasts for decades. The name gained prominence primarily due to its association with The Beatles' legendary album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, where "Billy Shears" is introduced as the new lead singer replacing the original member, and it has sparked numerous theories about the identity behind the name. While on the surface, Billy Shears appears to be a fictional character created for artistic purposes, many believe that his identity is intertwined with one of the most famous secrets in rock history. In this comprehensive article, we will explore who Billy Shears is, the origins of the name, the connections within The Beatles' lore, and the various theories surrounding this mysterious figure.

The Origin of the Name "Billy Shears"

The Beatles and the Sgt. Pepper's Album

The name Billy Shears first surfaced in the context of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, released in 1967. The album was revolutionary, both musically and culturally, and is considered one of the greatest albums of all time. Among its many innovations was a fictitious band, the Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, which served as a conceptual framework for the album.

Within the album, there's a track titled "With a Little Help from My Friends," sung by a character named Billy Shears. This name was used as a pseudonym or alter ego for the album's lead singer, who was Paul McCartney in the context of the story, but the persona of Billy Shears was fictional.

The Introduction of Billy Shears in the Album

On the track "With a Little Help from My Friends," the vocals are performed by Ringo Starr, but the liner notes of the album credit the song to "Lennon–McCartney," as usual. However, in the album's narrative, Billy Shears is introduced as the new singer of the fictional band, and the name appears in the song "Billy Shears," which follows "With a Little Help from My Friends."

This theatrical device was part of the larger concept of the Sgt. Pepper album, which blurred the lines between reality and fiction, creating a surreal musical universe. The character of Billy Shears was thus embedded into this narrative, leading to speculation about whether he was just a fictional creation or had a deeper connection to the real members of The Beatles.

Who Is Billy Shears? The Theories and Speculations

The ambiguity surrounding Billy Shears has given rise to numerous theories, ranging from the straightforward to the conspiracy-laden. Here, we will examine the most prominent ideas about his identity.

The Official Explanation: A Fictional Character

The most widely accepted view is that Billy Shears is a fictional persona created by The Beatles as part of the Sgt. Pepper album's concept. The band was experimenting with studio techniques, storytelling, and theatrical personas, and Billy Shears was simply a character representing the "new" singer in the narrative.

In this context, Billy Shears is a narrative device, and there is no evidence to suggest that he is a real person or a secret identity of any band member. The name served as a creative tool to add depth and intrigue to the album's story.

Conspiracy Theories: The "Paul Is Dead" Connection

One of the most famous conspiracy theories related to Billy Shears revolves around the "Paul is Dead" myth. According to this theory, Paul McCartney died in 1966 and was secretly replaced by a look-alike. Supporters point to various clues in Beatles' songs and album covers suggesting a cover-up.

In this narrative, Billy Shears is sometimes identified as the alleged replacement for Paul McCartney, implying that he is the "new" Paul. The appearance of the name in the Sgt. Pepper album is seen by some as a coded message indicating Paul's death and replacement.

Key points of this theory include:

- Alleged clues in lyrics and artwork pointing to Paul's death.
- The introduction of "Billy Shears" as a new lead singer symbolizing the replacement.
- Interpretations of certain lines and images as hidden messages.

However, these claims are widely discredited by historians and band members, who have consistently denied any such conspiracy.

Other Alleged Identities Behind Billy Shears

Some theories suggest that Billy Shears might be:

- A pseudonym for Ringo Starr, who sings the song "With a Little Help from My Friends."
- A stand-in for a secret member or collaborator involved in the band's production.
- An alias for a different musician altogether, possibly linked to the British music scene of the 1960s.

Most of these theories lack concrete evidence and are often fueled by cryptic messages, misinterpretations, and the band's penchant for mystique.

Musical and Cultural Significance of Billy Shears

The Character's Role in the Sgt. Pepper Album

The inclusion of Billy Shears contributed to the album's overarching theme of fantasy and theatricality. The persona allowed The Beatles to step into different roles and explore new artistic avenues, influencing future concept albums.

The song "Billy Shears" acts as a sort of musical introduction to the character, and the persona's presence reinforced the album's experimental nature. The character embodies the spirit of the 1960s counterculture—playful, rebellious, and questioning authority.

Impact on Popular Culture

The idea of Billy Shears has permeated popular culture, inspiring:

- Theories and books about The Beatles' secret messages.
- References in music and media exploring hidden meanings.
- The fascination with the "Paul is Dead" myth and the symbolic use of characters like Billy Shears.

His name has become synonymous with the mysterious and enigmatic aspects of The Beatles' legacy.

Legal and Official Clarifications

Despite numerous speculations, The Beatles and their official representatives have consistently stated that Billy Shears is a fictional character. No credible evidence supports the idea that he was a real person or that the band engaged in any elaborate cover-up.

Paul McCartney has publicly dismissed the "Paul is Dead" theory, emphasizing that Billy Shears was simply a character in the album's story. The band's creative experimentation was meant to challenge perceptions and push artistic boundaries rather than conceal secrets.

Conclusion: Who Is Billy Shears?

In conclusion, who is Billy Shears remains a mix of artistic fiction and legendary mystery. Created as part of The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's concept, Billy Shears symbolizes their innovative approach to music and storytelling. While conspiracy theories have attempted to link him to secret identities, the most credible explanation is that he is a fictional persona designed to enhance the album's narrative.

The enduring fascination with Billy Shears highlights how The Beatles' work continues to inspire curiosity, debate, and interpretation decades after its release. Whether as a symbol of creative experimentation or a cipher in conspiracy theories, Billy Shears remains an iconic figure in the mythology of one of the greatest bands in history.

Key Takeaways:

- Billy Shears is a fictional character introduced in The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper album.
- The name appears as the persona of the new lead singer in the album's narrative.
- Theories linking Billy Shears to Paul McCartney's death or other secret identities are widely regarded as speculative.
- The character exemplifies The Beatles' innovative storytelling and artistic experimentation.
- His legacy endures as part of the mystique surrounding The Beatles and their groundbreaking music.

If you are a Beatles fan or a music history enthusiast, understanding Billy Shears offers insight into the

band's creative processes and the cultural impact of their work. His story continues to inspire discussion about art, identity, and the power of myth in popular culture.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Billy Shears in The Beatles' lore?

Billy Shears is a fictional character introduced as the new lead singer of The Beatles after the supposed death of Paul McCartney, most notably in the song 'With a Little Help from My Friends' on the 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' album.

Is Billy Shears a real person or a fictional character?

Billy Shears is a fictional character created for artistic purposes and is not a real person; he was introduced as a persona within The Beatles' concept album.

What is the significance of Billy Shears in The Beatles' discography?

Billy Shears symbolizes the idea of a replacement for Paul McCartney, playing into the famous conspiracy theory that McCartney died and was replaced by a look-alike, which is reflected in the 'Sgt. Pepper' album.

How did Billy Shears become associated with The Beatles?

He was portrayed as the new lead singer in the fictional storyline of the 'Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' album, serving as a narrative device for the band's concept album.

Are there any real members of The Beatles named Billy Shears?

No, Billy Shears is not a real member of The Beatles; he is a fictional character created for artistic and storytelling purposes.

What song mentions Billy Shears in The Beatles' catalog?

'With a Little Help from My Friends' features Billy Shears as the singer, and it is sung by Ringo Starr on the 'Sgt. Pepper's' album.

How has the character of Billy Shears contributed to Beatles conspiracy theories?

Billy Shears is often cited as evidence of the 'Paul is dead' conspiracy theory, as he is seen as a replacement or alter ego for Paul McCartney.

Has Billy Shears appeared in any other Beatles-related media?

Primarily, Billy Shears is associated with the 'Sgt. Pepper' album concept; he has appeared in various parodies and references but is not a character in other official Beatles media.

What is the origin of the name 'Billy Shears'?

The name was likely inspired by the song 'The Billy Shears Song,' which appeared on the 'Sgt. Pepper's' album, and it fits the fictional persona of the new band member.

Why did The Beatles choose to include a fictional character like Billy Shears in their album?

Including Billy Shears helped create a theatrical, concept-driven album that played with identity, mystery, and storytelling, enhancing the artistic impact of 'Sgt. Pepper's.'

Additional Resources

Who Is Billy Shears? An In-Depth Investigation into the Myth, The Man, and The Mystery

The name Billy Shears has resonated through music history, pop culture, and conspiracy theories for

decades. Often shrouded in ambiguity, the figure of Billy Shears is intertwined with the legendary career of The Beatles, the enigmatic "Paul is dead" rumor, and the broader landscape of musical mythology. This investigation aims to dissect who Billy Shears truly is—whether a real individual, a persona, or a symbol—and explore the cultural phenomena surrounding him.

Origins of the Name Billy Shears

The name "Billy Shears" first emerged in popular consciousness through The Beatles' 1967 album Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. The character of Billy Shears is introduced as the new vocalist replacing the fictional Sgt. Pepper. The song "With a Little Help from My Friends" features a prominent chorus sung by Billy Shears, played by Ringo Starr — though the persona of Billy Shears is not explicitly a real person within the narrative.

The Beatles and the Creation of Billy Shears

- Role in Sgt. Pepper's: The album's narrative employs fictional personas, with Billy Shears serving as a stand-in for the band's evolving lineup and musical experimentation.
- The "Sgt. Pepper" Persona: The album's concept revolves around a fictional band, and Billy Shears is an extension of that fictional universe, embodying the idea of a new band member or alter ego.

The Name's Cultural Significance

- The name "Billy Shears" itself has a playful, almost theatrical quality, fitting into the psychedelic and experimental atmosphere of the late 1960s.
- Some interpret the name as a coded message or a pseudonym that has taken on a life of its own beyond the album.

The "Paul Is Dead" Conspiracy and Billy Shears

Perhaps the most compelling reason the name Billy Shears remains a topic of interest is its association with the legendary "Paul is dead" conspiracy theory.

The Origins of the Rumor

In 1969, a series of cryptic clues and alleged hidden messages in Beatles songs and album artwork led some fans to theorize that Paul McCartney had died in a car crash in 1966 and was secretly replaced by a look-alike.

- Key clues cited include:
- The "Abbey Road" album cover, interpreted as a funeral procession.
- The "clues" in song lyrics, such as references to death or replacement.
- Hidden messages discovered through backward masking.

Introduction of Billy Shears into the Narrative

In the midst of this conspiracy, the introduction of Billy Shears in Sgt. Pepper was seen by some as a coded reference to the replacement of Paul McCartney.

- The "Sgt. Pepper" album's release: Coincided with the height of the conspiracy's popularity.
- Billy Shears as the "New Paul": Some fans and conspiracy theorists posited that Billy Shears was a pseudonym for Paul McCartney's replacement.

Deconstructing the Claims

- Evidence Against the Theory:
 - No credible evidence supports Paul's death.
 - The "Billy Shears" character is explicitly introduced as Ringo Starr's singing persona, not a stand-in for Paul.
 - The theory is widely dismissed by scholars, band members, and critics as a product of elaborate misinterpretations.
- Cultural Impact:
 - Despite being debunked, the theory and the figure of Billy Shears have persisted in popular culture as symbols of musical myth-making and the allure of conspiracy.

Who Is Billy Shears? Fact or Fiction?

The core question remains: is Billy Shears a real person, a pseudonym, or a fictional character created for artistic or conspiratorial purposes?

Biographical Perspectives

- As a Fictional Persona:
 - In the context of Sgt. Pepper and the Beatles' creative universe, Billy Shears is a fictional character embodying the idea of a new band member.
 - His role is primarily narrative and theatrical, serving the album's concept of a psychedelic, experimental band.

- As a Pseudonym or Code:
- Conspiracy theorists have speculated that Billy Shears could be a pseudonym for Paul McCartney or another individual, but no verifiable evidence supports this claim.
- In the Realm of Mythology:
- Over time, Billy Shears has transcended his original musical role, becoming a symbol within the broader mythos of hidden messages in pop music.

Real Individuals Named Billy Shears

- Unlikely Connections:
- No verifiable records or credible sources link the name Billy Shears to any real person involved with The Beatles or their circle.
- The name appears to be a creative construct rather than the identity of a specific individual.

The Cultural and Musical Significance of Billy Shears

Despite the ambiguity surrounding his identity, Billy Shears holds significant cultural weight.

As a Symbol of Musical Mythology

- Represents how fans and critics interpret music as layered with hidden meanings.
- Embodies the allure of secret messages, codes, and conspiracy within popular music.

In Popular Media and Parodies

- The name and persona have been referenced or parodied in various forms:
- Films, documentaries, and books exploring Beatles lore.
- Television shows and comedy sketches that play on the idea of secret messages and hidden identities.

Impact on Fan Culture

- The "Billy Shears" persona fuels ongoing discussions about musical authenticity, artist identities, and the nature of fandom.
- It exemplifies how fans project narratives onto their favorite artists, blurring the lines between fact and fiction.

Conclusion: Unraveling the Enigma

The figure of Billy Shears exemplifies the complex interplay between music, myth, and cultural storytelling. While no concrete evidence suggests that Billy Shears was a real person or a secret alter ego of Paul McCartney, his presence within The Beatles' discography and the broader conspiracy theories surrounding the band have cemented his place in pop culture history.

In essence, Billy Shears is best understood as:

- A fictional character created for the narrative of Sgt. Pepper.
- A symbolic figure in the "Paul is dead" conspiracy, representing the idea of a replacement or hidden identity.

- An enduring myth that illustrates how fans and critics interpret art through layers of symbolism and secret messages.

The true identity of Billy Shears remains elusive—not because of any intentional deception by the band, but because of the way myth and music intertwine in the collective consciousness. Whether as a tribute to the psychedelic era's theatricality or as a cipher for conspiracy, Billy Shears endures as an enigmatic figure whose origins are as layered as the music he is associated with.

Final thoughts: The fascination with Billy Shears underscores the human tendency to seek hidden meanings and secrets within art. As a cultural construct, Billy Shears exemplifies the power of myth-making in music history and reminds us that sometimes, the stories we tell are more captivating than the facts themselves.

Who Is Billy Shears

who is billy shears: *The Memoirs of Billy Shears* Thomas E. Uharriet, 2015-12-13 William Shepherd (Billy Shears) took over The Beatles and the McCartney estate on 16 September 1966, going from Billy Pepper of Billy Pepper and the Pepper Pots, to The Beatles' new Sgt. Pepper of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. Taking creative control of the band from John made William the new boss, saving the band, but tormenting all involved. The Memoirs is the source of the Paul is Dead material reprinted in Billy's Back! and of the insights in Beatles Enlightenment, but also includes the darker aspects: Paulism, Satanism, and Biblical humor—calling The Beatles the four-headed 666 Beast. The Memoirs is the first fully encoded full-length book. As part of that encoding, it contains the world's largest acrostic, and is the world's premier of word-stacking. By reading The Memoirs, you will learn the secret meanings of their songs, and will recognize Paul and William's distinct physical differences, personality differences, and vast differences in musical skills.

who is billy shears: *Billy's Back* Thomas E. Uharriet, 2012-09-09

who is billy shears: *Billy Shears* Doctor Lev, 2002

who is billy shears: *Billy's Back!* Thomas E Uharriet, 2020-06-20 Read this book as the ultimate Beatles' fantasy tour of their magickal mystery! This book (for those who do not already have these chapters of the Memoirs of Billy Shears) sets you on your journey through their alternate reality that runs parallel to traditional thinking. It is your initiation into the Beatles' magickal world, as told from Billy's perspective, bringing you into the circle of those who know the mystery of how he obtained McCartney's role and estate, and of how he took the creative control of John's world-famous band.

who is billy shears: *The Walrus Was Paul* R. Gary Patterson, 1998-10-29 A guide to the hoax that Paul McCartney was killed in an automobile accident in 1966 and replaced by a look-a-like.

who is billy shears: *The Queen of Dirt Island* Donal Ryan, 2024-02-27 "From its opening

pages, this book exerts a quiet, propulsive hold over its reader. The three generations of Aylward women will break your heart and then put it back together again.” –Maggie O'Farrell This is a generous mosaic of a novel about the staying power of love and pride and history and family. –Colum McCann, author of *Apeirogon* and *Let The Great World Spin* From the multi-award-winning and internationally bestselling author Donal Ryan, a searing, jubilant story about four generations of women and fierce love The Aylward women of Nenagh, Tipperary, are mad about each other, but you wouldn't always think it. You'd have to know them to know that—in spite of what the neighbors might say about raised voices and dramatic scenes—their house is a place of peace, filled with love, a refuge from the sadness and cruelty of the world. Their story begins at an end and ends at a beginning. It involves wives and widows, gunrunners and gougers, sinners and saints. It's a story of terrible betrayals and fierce loyalties, of isolation and togetherness, of transgression, forgiveness, desire, and love. Of all the things family can be and all the things it sometimes isn't. The Queen of Dirt Island is an uplifting celebration of fierce, loyal love and the powerful stories that bind generations together.

who is billy shears: Welcome to Scranton Greg Halpin, 2010 It's a wild ride through Scranton in this darkly funny and touching story about guys in their twenties trying to figure out life in their hometown. The boundaries of friendship are tested as one of them hits rock bottom. Welcome to Scranton paints a portrait of a small town that includes political corruption, a disgraced teacher, and the hilarious misadventures of young men. The story takes you deep beneath the cliché of small town life. It offers scenes that make you laugh out loud, situations that make you cringe, and, above all, Scranton itself looms large as the kind of ugly, lovely town that we all know too well. www.welcometoscranton.com

who is billy shears: The Beatles ,

who is billy shears: Risky Business William D. Romanowski, 2017-07-28 The role of motion pictures in the popularity of rock music became increasingly significant in the latter twentieth century. Rock music and its interaction with film is the subject of this significant book that re-examines and extends Serge Denisoff's pioneering observations of this relationship. Prior to Saturday Night Fever rock music had a limited role in the motion picture business. That movie's success, and the success of its soundtrack, began to change the silver screen. In 1983, with Flashdance, the situation drastically evolved and by 1984, ten soundtracks, many in the pop/rock genre, were certified platinum. Choosing which rock scores to discuss in this book was a challenging task. The authors made selections from seminal films such as The Graduate, Easy Rider, American Grafitti, Saturday Night Fever, Help!, and Dirty Dancing. However, many productions of the period are significant not because of their success, but because of their box office and record store failures. Risky Business chronicles the interaction of two major mediums of mass culture in the latter twentieth century. This book is essential for those interested in communications, popular culture, and social change.

who is billy shears: Echoes From The Set Volume II (1967- 1977) Shadows From the Underground Katherine Wilson, 2021-09-22 With the help of University of Oregon professors, as well as professors from CU Boulder and University of Cincinnati, this book ties together the author's personal experiences and interviews of members of the New Hollywood and those that influenced them, such as the Merry Pranksters and their film crew, Poetic Cinema Filmmakers, still living members of the Beat Generation, and through academic articles and books, from Plato to Yeats and the time's literary theory deconstructionists, answers the question of what created them.

who is billy shears: No Fortunate Son Philip Michaels, 2012-04-17 Patrick Golden is a student at Berkeley during the turbulent and vibrant late 1960s. The product of working-class Jewish and Irish-Catholic parents, he takes a huge step out of his social comfort zone when he makes the move to the storied walls of the Ivy League. Soon he's surrounded by old-moneyed aristocrats as he joins his affluent and socially well-connected college roommate, Charles Comstock, at Harvard in the summer of 1968. At Harvard, Patrick meets Morgan Thackeray, a stunningly beautiful and free-spirited coed from one of Boston's oldest, wealthiest, and stodgiest families. Despite her bigoted

fathers virulent objections and threats, their romance blooms until it is torn apart by the dark secret Morgan must keep from Patrick. To protect him, she disappears, leaving his heart in tatters without an explanation or even a good-bye. Forty-one years later, Patrick finds himself back in Boston on sad business the funeral of his old college roommate, Charles. In a twist he could never have predicted, he reconnects with his long-lost love. After decades of doubt and confusion, he's about to learn her secret and his life will be dramatically altered by her confession. Vividly describing Harvard, Berkeley, and San Francisco as they were in the late 1960s, *No Fortunate Son* recreates the sights, sounds, mood, and culture that defined this colorfully tumultuous and politically pivotal era. Barbara Keer, Editor of *Chicago Splash Magazine*, *Splash Magazines Worldwide* It isn't often that I find a book I can't put down and feel a loss when I finish because the characters have become my friends. *No Fortunate Son* is that kind of book. I found the book interesting in several ways: as a first novel, as an example both of a self-published book and re-careering. Patrick Golden, the protagonist, has a very different story. Glancing by chance at the obituary section which until then had been concealed from view, he gasped when a photograph of his friend, Charles Comstock, leaped at him from the page. Patrick lives near San Francisco and Charles died in Boston. And so begins a tale that is filled with intrigue as it weaves its way through the period of the Viet Nam War, one shocking event following the next and the young people trying to find their lives in the midst of it all. The stories of that time come vividly to life.

who is billy shears: *The Ultimate Beatles Quiz Book* Michael J. Hockinson, 1992-01-15 What was the first song the Beatles recorded for Sgt. Pepper? When Beatles fans get together, this is just one of the questions they hurl at each other. *The Ultimate Beatles Quiz Book* is the most elaborate and entertaining collection of these questions ever published.-of-a-kind mine of facts, photos, and Fab Four lore.

who is billy shears: *Long and Winding Roads, Revised Edition* Kenneth Womack, 2022-12-15 In *Long and Winding Roads: The Evolving Artistry of the Beatles, Revised Edition*, Kenneth Womack brings the band's story vividly to life—from their salad days as a Liverpool Skiffle group and their apprenticeship in the nightclubs and mean streets of Hamburg through their early triumphs at the legendary Cavern Club and the massive onslaught of Beatlemania itself. By mapping the group's development as an artistic fusion, Womack traces the Beatles' creative arc from their first, primitive recordings through Abbey Road and the twilight of their career. In this revised edition, Womack addresses new insights in Beatles-related scholarship since the original publication of *Long and Winding Roads*, along with hundreds of the group's outtakes released in the intervening years. The updated edition also affords attention to the Beatles' musical debt to Rhythm and Blues, as well as to key recent discoveries that vastly shift our understanding of formative events in the band's timeless story.

who is billy shears: *Sound Pictures* Kenneth Womack, 2018-09-04 More than anyone besides the bandmates themselves, George Martin was the man who created the unique sound of the Beatles. *Sound Pictures* offers a powerful and intimate account of how he did so. The second and final volume of the definitive biography of the man, *Sound Pictures* traces the story of the Beatles' breathtaking artistic trajectory after reaching the creative heights of Rubber Soul. As the bandmates engage in brash experimentation both inside and outside the studio, Martin toils along with manager Brian Epstein to consolidate the Beatles' fame in the face of growing sociocultural pressures, including the crisis associated with the Beatles are more popular than Jesus scandal. Meanwhile, he also struggles to make his way as an independent producer in the highly competitive world of mid-1960s rock 'n' roll. As Martin and the Beatles create one landmark album after another, including such masterworks as *Revolver*, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, *The Beatles (The White Album)*, and *Abbey Road*, the internal stakes and interpersonal challenges become ever greater. During his post-Beatles years, Martin attempts to discover new vistas of sound recording with a host of acts, including Jeff Beck, America, Cheap Trick, Paul McCartney, and Elton John, his creative breakthroughs followed by unprecedented commercial success. Eventually, though, all roads bring Martin back to the Beatles, as the group seeks out new ways to memorialize their

achievement under the supervision of the man who has come to be known as Sir George. Now, more than fifty years after the Beatles' revolutionary triumphs, Martin's singular stamp on popular music has become more vital than ever, as successive generations discover the magic of the Beatles and their groundbreaking sound.

who is billy shears: One Foot on the Platform Peter Goddard, 2025-03-11 The final word from one of popular music's greatest critics. In the summer of 2020, acclaimed music critic and journalist Peter Goddard began work on a new book that would take readers on a journey back through his fifty-plus years spent writing professionally about rock music and the musical styles circling it—everything from blues and jazz to country and classical. His plan was to revisit his old haunts and their habitués, scenes and figures he first wrote about starting in the mid-1960s when he became Canada's first on-staff popular music critic, to show how ongoing revisions continually reframe first impressions. Tragically, Goddard died in 2022 before work on the manuscript was complete. But many of the core essays—on Bob Dylan, John Lennon and Yoko Ono, the Who, k.d. lang, David Bowie, Liza Minelli, The Band, Neil Diamond, and others—are here. Accompanying these new essays is a collection of some of the best writing of Goddard's career—ranging from interviews with B. B. King, Joni Mitchell, Paul Simon, Bruce Springsteen, and Janis Joplin to reviews of classic albums by the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Neil Young, to close readings of Leonard Cohen, Anne Murray, Led Zeppelin, and Gordon Lightfoot. Taken as a whole, *One Foot on the Platform* represents more than fifty years of thought and writing by one of Canada's foremost cultural critics.

who is billy shears: A Day in the Life L. John Perkins, 2005-12 In late 1969, a story began to circulate worldwide that Paul McCartney was dead. He had, the reports went, been killed in a car crash three years before and had been replaced by a double. In this tale, a journalist stumbles on this extraordinary conspiracy during 1980.

who is billy shears: The Last September Nina de Gramont, 2016-07-05 "If you liked *The Girl on the Train*, read *The Last September*, a literary whodunit set on Cape Cod, weaving a murder mystery with the emotionally intense story of a fraying marriage."—*Newsday* "Impossible to put down . . . With an artist's eye and a poet's heart, de Gramont realizes a world of love, mystery, and the shattering sorrow of mental illness, deceit, hope, and lives cut short." —*Library Journal*, starred review Brett has been in love with her husband, Charlie, from the day she laid eyes on him in college. When he is found murdered, Brett is devastated. But if she is honest with herself, their marriage had been hanging by a thread for quite some time. All clues point to Charlie's mentally ill brother, Eli, but any number of people might have been driven to kill Charlie—a handsome, charismatic man who unwittingly damaged almost every life he touched. Brett is determined to understand how such a tragedy could have happened—and whether she was somehow complicit. Set in the desolate autumn beauty of Cape Cod, this riveting emotional puzzle explores the psyche of a woman facing down the meaning of love and loyalty. "The Last September is a wonderful, glowing book populated by characters that become a part of your life long after the last page has been turned. It is the type of novel writers admire and readers long for." —Jason Mott, author of *The Returned* "Brilliant rendering of love story and murder mystery . . . I was hooked by the first paragraph, which somehow contains all the beautiful, luminous grief of the whole story, and I truly did not want to let it go in the end." —Brad Watson, author of *Aliens in the Prime of Their Lives* "A moody murder mystery . . . Boasts lovely, understated writing, sharply drawn settings . . . and, once again, characters who are irresistibly attractive, flawed, and dangerous . . . A fine literary whodunit from an accomplished storyteller." —*Kirkus Reviews*

who is billy shears: Into the Mystic Christopher Hill, 2017-09-12 Explores the visionary, mystical, and ecstatic traditions that influenced the music of the 1960s • Examines the visionary, spiritual, and mystical influences on the Grateful Dead, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, the Incredible String Band, the Left Banke, Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground, and others • Shows how the British Invasion acted as the "detonator" to explode visionary music into the mainstream • Explains how 1960s rock and roll music transformed consciousness on both the individual and collective levels The 1960s were a time of huge transformation, sustained and

amplified by the music of that era: Rock and Roll. During the 19th and 20th centuries visionary and esoteric spiritual traditions influenced first literature, then film. In the 1960s they entered the realm of popular music, catalyzing the ecstatic experiences that empowered a generation. Exploring how 1960s rock and roll music became a school of visionary art, Christopher Hill shows how music raised consciousness on both the individual and collective levels to bring about a transformation of the planet. The author traces how rock and roll rose from the sacred music of the African Diaspora, harnessing its ecstatic power for evoking spiritual experiences through music. He shows how the British Invasion, beginning with the Beatles in the early 1960s, acted as the "detonator" to explode visionary music into the mainstream. He explains how 60s rock and roll made a direct appeal to the imaginations of young people, giving them a larger set of reference points around which to understand life. Exploring the sources 1960s musicians drew upon to evoke the initiatory experience, he reveals the influence of European folk traditions, medieval Troubadours, and a lost American history of ecstatic politics and shows how a revival of the ancient use of psychedelic substances was the strongest agent of change, causing the ecstatic, mythic, and sacred to enter the consciousness of a generation. The author examines the mythic narratives that underscored the work of the Grateful Dead, the French symbolist poets who inspired Bob Dylan, the hallucinatory England of the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper, the tale of the Rolling Stones and the Lord of Misrule, Van Morrison's astral journeys, and the dark mysticism of Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground. Evoking the visionary and apocalyptic atmosphere in which the music of the 1960s was received, the author helps each of us to better understand this transformative era and its mystical roots.

who is billy shears: *The Space Between the Notes* Sheila Whiteley, 2003-09-02 The Space Between the Notes examines a series of relationships central to sixties counter-culture: psychedelic coding and rock music, the Rolling Stones and Charles Manson, the Beatles and the 'Summers of love', Jimi Hendrix and hallucinogenics, Pink Floyd and space rock. Sheila Whiteley combines musicology and socio-cultural analysis to illuminate this terrain, illustrating her argument with key recordings of the time: Cream's She Walks Like a Bearded Rainbow, Hendrix's Hey Joe, Pink Floyd's Set the Controls For the Heart of the Sun, The Move's I Can Hear the Grass Grow, among others. The appropriation of progressive rock by young urban dance bands in the 1990s make this study of sixties and seventies counter-culture a timely intervention. It will inform students of popular music and culture, and spark off recognition and interest from those that lived through the period as well as a new generation that draw inspiration from its iconography and sensibilities today.

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